

Jan. 3, 2005

To the FCC Commissioners:

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Dec. meeting in St. Paul, MN but would like to add my comments. In 2000, low power FM radio seemed to be ready for approval. However, politics steeped in and crushed the opportunity for many nonprofits to reach out to their clients in a very broad way, over the public airwaves. I am a citizenship teacher for the Minnesota Literacy Council, a nonprofit that serves largely but not exclusively, immigrants who are trying to learn English and become U. S. citizens. We joined a group of other nonprofits who serve immigrants and thought low power FM would be a brilliant and easy way to reach our clientele. There are so many rumors that spread literally by word of mouth, a radio station, speaking in simple English as well as have other language programs, would help rid these falsehoods. Education and culture programs of many shapes and sizes could be broadcast and hopefully listened to by the entire populace, who apparently can learn a thing or two about the new Minnesotans.

Everything was falling in place, but NOOOO, someone, specifically a lame duck senator from Minnesota, had to add a well planned rider to a budget bill that essentially made it impossible for any urban area to acquire a space on the FM dial. And the reason behind it, a 100 watt station would cause 'interference' to other, much higher wattage stations. Now, who is kidding who? This rider also said a study would be done by February 2001 to see if there would be radio wave interference from these miniscule stations. After all, there is a reason they are called LOW POWER. Well, believe it or not, the study was completed, in 2003 (?) and found there was NO INTERFERENCE to be found. Why this study took so long, I don't know, but imagine if Congress passed legislation that gave everyone a tax cut but the IRS took 3 YEARS to get the checks sent out. Would there be public outrage? I think so. So what has the FCC done to correct this wrong? Have they attempted to role back regulations or request Congress to repair the damage they so falsely created knowingly. Well, not on your life. At least, not a majority of the commissioners.

I await the day when the airwaves do become public again. Low Power FM is just a dream right now. The real reason this amazingly simple idea was crushed is because that would allow less available frequencies for profitable companies to buy. I await a reply.

Sincerely,

Ronald Mazurowski

